

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 16509 042046Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----043722 042048Z /61
O 042039Z OCT 77 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2016
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
USDEL SECRETARY NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BONN 16509

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, FR
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S UNGA SPEECH: REMARKS ON THE USE
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REF: (A) WHITE HOUSE 70497, (B) STATE 238447

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AT 7:15 P.M.
ON OCTOBER 4 AND MADE THE POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL.
SINCE GENSCHER WAS UNAVAILABLE UNTIL THAT TIME, AND TO
ASSURE THAT THE FRG WOULD HAVE THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS
BEFORE DELIVERY, AN EMBOFF PRESENTED THE TEXT TO THE
FOREIGN OFFICE (PFEFFER) AT NOON TODAY.

2. GENSCHER WELCOMED THE STATEMENT AS A REAFFIRMATION
OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT AND OF THE NATO STRATEGY OF
FLEXIBLE RESPONSE. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT
THAT THE TEXT REFERRED TO A U.S. COMMITMENT IN CASE OF
"NUCLEAR OR CONVENTIONAL" ATTACK. HE STRESSED, IN
PARTICULAR, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REFERENCE TO
ATTACKS ON U.S. ARMED FORCES SINCE THIS COVERED THE
U.S. COMMITMENT IN BERLIN. WHILE HE FOUND THE STATE-
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MENT A POSITIVE ONE HE OBSERVED THERE WAS ALWAYS THE
POSSIBILITY THAT SOME PEOPLE MIGHT INTERPRET IT AS A
POLICY OF NON-FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS WAS
CLEARLY NOT THE CASE AND HE HOPED THIS WOULD BE UNDER-
STOOD BY THE PUBLIC.

3. GENSCHER NOTED THAT THE STATEMENT MIGHT BE SEEN AS

ELIMINATING A GREY AREA IN EXISTING U.S. POLICY--I.E.,
A COMMITMENT NOT TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO DEFEND
AGAINST ATTACKS ON COUNTRIES NOT ALLIED WITH THE U.S.
HE MENTIONED YUGOSLAVIA IN THIS CONTEXT (PFEFFER HAD
EARLIER MADE THE SAME POINT REFERRING TO BOTH YUGO-
SLAVIA AND ISRAEL) AND ASKED IF WE HAD INFORMED
BELGRADE OR OTHER NON-ALLIES IN ADVANCE OF THE
PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. I SAID I WAS WITHOUT INFORMATION
ON THIS POINT.

4. IN RAISING THE QUESTION OF THE ALLEGED ELIMINATION
OF A "GREY AREA" IN U.S. POLICY, PFEFFER HAD OBSERVED
THAT, WHILE NO ONE SERIOUSLY THOUGHT THE U.S. WOULD
USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO DEFEND NON-ALLIED STATES, THERE
WERE PROBABLY SOME COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD HAVE
PREFERRED CONTINUING THE AMBIGUITY. GENSCHER DID NOT
ADDRESS HIMSELF TO THIS POINT.

5. SEPTELS REPORT OTHER SUBJECTS COVERED IN OUR
DISCUSSIONS.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR WEAPONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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